

ABSTRACT**A SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR VERTICAL
PERIMETER PROTECTION**

5 Embodiments of the present invention include a method for processing
packets through a plurality of protocol layers comprising accessing a packet
associated with a connection and processing the packet through the plurality of
protocol layers using a single thread wherein connection state information used
by the plurality of protocol layers is preserved by mutual exclusion of other
10 threads processing packets for the connection through the plurality of protocol
layers.